Centres at Allahabad, Farrukhabad, Jhansi, Pilibhit, Agra, Meerut, Gonda, Gorakhpur, Varanasi, Balia and Mau.

Inclusion of Nonia caste in the list of scheduled castes

†598. SHRI DARA SINGH CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that several representations from the Akhil Bhartiya Nonia Jaati Mahasangh have been received to include to Nonia caste in the list of Scheduled Castes;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the decision to include the Kharia and Agaria castes in the list which are homogeneous to the Nonia caste, has been taken by Government; and

(c) the reasons for the non-inclusion of the Nonia caste in the said list?

THE MINISTER OF STATE INTHE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The Government of Bihar had recommended a proposal for inclusion of Nonia community in the list of Scheduled Castes from Bihar. The proposal of the State Government lacked the requisite ethnographic details. Hence, the State Government of Bihar has been requested to furnish requisite details for further examination of the proposal as per approved modalities. There is no proposal pending with Government for inclusion of Nonia caste in any other States/Union Territories.

Scheme for the upliftment of down-trodden women

†599. SHRI D.P. YADAV: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any scheme for the upliftment of down-trodden women;

(b) whether Government have taken effective steps to abolish the practice of scavenging;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE INTHE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) Yes, Sir. The Department of Women and Child Development is implementing various schemes for women welfare. Of these, two schemes which have been recently launched are:-

(i) In 2000-01, Swayamsidha, an Integrated Scheme for holistic empowerment of women was launched.

(ii) In 2001-2, Swadhar, a scheme for welfare in difficult circumstances was launched.

(b) and (c) Government of India is implementing the National Scheme of Liberation and Rehabilitation of Scavengers and their Dependents (NSLRS) since 1992. The objective of NSLRS is to liberate the scavengers from their existing hereditary obnoxious and inhuman occupation of manually removing of night soil and filth and to provide for and engage them in alternative and dignified occupations. The main components of the scheme are time bond survey for identification of scavengers, training and rehabilitation. The full cost of training is borne by the Government of India. towards rehabilitation of scavengers, projects costing upto Rs. 50,000/- for each beneficiary are financed by way of a prescribed financial package comprising of 50% subsidy subject to a ceiling of Rs. 10,000/- per project, 15% of project cost as Margin Money Loan (MML) which is shared between the Central Government and State Governments in the ratio 49:51 and the balance amount is provided as loan at concessional rate of interest by the National Safai Karamacharis Finance and Development Corporation (NSKFDC). In order to accelerate and energise the pace of NSLRS, the concept of Sanitary Mart has been introduced in the year 1999-2000 for rehabilitation of scavengers in groups. Besides this, a Central legislation namely, "The Employment of Manual Scavengers and Construction of Dry Latrines (Prohibition) Act, 1993" has been enacted to convert the existing dry latrines and construction of pour flush latrines. Housing and Urban Development Corporation (HUDCO) under the Ministry of Urban Development and Poverty Alleviation has taken up programme of conversion of dry latrines into waster borne ones.

(d) Does not arise.

Crimes by juveniles

600. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the press reports to the recent increase in the heinous crimes committed by juveniles in various parts of the country;

(b) if so, whether any study has been conducted to analyse the factors contributing to such a trend among the youth; and

(c) the measures contemplated to contain this erosion in moral value among the children?

THE MINISTER OF STATE INTHE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) Certain incidents of heinous crimes, alleged to have been committed by juveniles, have been reported by the Press recently. However, as per data available with the National Crime Records Bureau, there has been no up-trend witnessed in juvenile crime.

(b) The Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment has not conducted any study on this subject;

(c) The Ministry of Human Resource Development is implementing a scheme called 'Scheme of Assistance for Strengthening Culture and Values in Education'. The scheme aims at strengthening cultural and value education inputs in the school and non-formal education system. Under this scheme, financial assistace is given to Voluntary Organizations for inculcating human values in the minds of children.

Inclusion of Koli communities in the list of scheduled tribes

601. SHRI K. B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Karnataka Government had sent a proposal to include all the 42 synonymous Koli communities under the ST list;

(b) if so, whether it has come to the notice of Government that the